



BOROUGH OF DAVENTRY

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1948

ARTHUR LUCAS,  
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.





BOROUGH OF DAVENTRY

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1948

ARTHUR LUCAS,

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.



**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough.**

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, which incorporates that of your Sanitary Inspector, on the health and sanitary circumstances of the area for 1948.

The vital statistics summarised within are generally satisfactory and compare with those of England and Wales in a favourable manner.

This year has registered solid progress in water supply matters, the Council having long supported joint action for the conservation and distribution of local supplies now sees the Regional Board in being. Sewerage and its disposal have also received considerable attention and work is afoot to completely recognise this vital public service. Public and private house building is increasing, but not as rapidly as one would wish, and the rehousing of overcrowded families and those in defective houses remains a problem.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is going ahead but we must see a much higher percentage of the infant population protected.

I wish to thank personally the Public Health Committee, the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. Coupe, and the staff, whose helpful attitude has contributed to a good start to the duties which I took up in February, 1949.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR LUCAS,  
Medical Officer of Health,

## BOROUGH OF DAVENTRY.

### *Members of the Public Health Committee :*

**Councillor (Rev.) H. G. Farmar (Chairman), Councillor W. J. Franklin (Mayor), Alderman D. C. Arnall, Councillors W. E. Bird, L. B. Butcher, R. Falconer, L. S. Swann, T. R. Webb, R. J. Willoughby**

### *Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :*

#### Medical Officer of Health :

**Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.**

*also holds the appointments of*

Medical Officer of Health Rural District of Daventry,  
Medical Officer of Health Brackley Borough,  
Medical Officer of Health Brackley Rural District Council,  
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health,  
Assistant County Medical Officer for Schools.

#### Borough Sanitary Inspector :

**W. Coupe, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.**

Certified Inspector of Meat and Foods

Mr. Coupe is also Shops Act Inspector and Petroleum Officer.

## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1948.

Area (in acres)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,633
Population	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,850
Number of Separate Dwellings	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,153
Rateable Value	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£30,105
Product of a Penny Rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£103/17/1
Live Births—Total 69—Rate per 1,000 of population 17.9.						
Still Births—Nil.						
Maternity Mortality	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil.
Infantile Mortality—Total 4—Death Rate per 1,000 of live births						58.0
Deaths from Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil.
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil.
Diarrhoea (under two years)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

	Total	Male	Female	Rate
<b>Live Births.</b>				
Legitimate	.....	31	37	} 17.9
Illegitimate	.....	1		
	—	—	—	
	69	32	37	
	—	—	—	

	Total	Male	Female	Rate
<b>Still Births.</b>				
Legitimate	.....	Nil.		
Illegitimate	.....	Nil.		
	—	—	—	

	Total	Male	Female	Rate
<b>Deaths (all causes)</b>	40	27	13	} 10.3
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	.....	Nil.		

	Total	Male	Female	Rate
<b>Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) :—</b>				
Legitimate	.....	2	2	} 58.0
Illegitimate	.....	Nil.		
	—	—	—	
	4	2	2	
	—	—	—	

### Deaths from Infectious Diseases :—

Measles	.....	Nil.
Whooping Cough	.....	Nil.
Diarrhoea—under 1 year	.....	1

	Daventry Borough			Standardised Death Rate		
Year	Total	Male	Female	Recorded Rate	Daventry Borough	County England and Wales
1948	40	27	13		10.3	0 10.8



## CAUSES OF DEATH, 1948.

CAUSES	Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers .....	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever .....	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever .....	0	0	0
Whooping Cough .....	0	0	0
Diphtheria .....	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....	1	0	1
Tuberculosis—other forms .....	0	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases .....	0	0	0
Influenza .....	0	0	0
Measles .....	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis .....	0	0	0
Acute Active Encephalitis .....	0	0	0
Cancer of Buccal Cavity, Oesophagus and Uterus .....	0	0	0
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	2	0	2
Cancer of Breast .....	0	1	1
Cancer of all other sites .....	2	0	2
Diabetes .....	0	1	1
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions .....	5	3	8
Heart Disease .....	8	3	11
Other Diseases of Circulatory System .....	0	1	1
Bronchitis .....	0	0	0
Pneumonia .....	1	0	1
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	0	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	1	0	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age .....	1	0	1
Appendicitis .....	0	0	0
Other Digestive Disorders .....	2	0	2
Nephritis .....	0	0	0
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis .....	0	0	0
Other Maternal Causes .....	0	0	0
Premature Birth .....	1	0	1
Congenital Malformation, birth injury and infantile diseases .....	0	2	2
Suicide .....	1	0	1
Road Traffic Accidents .....	0	0	0
Other Violent Causes .....	0	0	0
All other causes .....	2	0	2
ALL CAUSES .....	27	13	40



## SECTION A.

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

**AREA.** The area of the administrative district is 3,633 acres, the bulk of which is rural, the main town being centred on an elevated spot at the foot of Borough Hill. The growth of the town is apparent along the main roads by which the area is well served. However, fuller development of residential areas can now only be obtained if proper services and conveniences are to be afforded the inhabitants who choose to live outside the town proper.

**POPULATION.** The mid-year 1948 estimated population is given by the Registrar General as 3,850. The natural increase of population, i.e. births over deaths, was 29.

**DEATHS.** The total number of deaths assigned to the district after inward and outward transfers was 40. The figure for 1947 was 53. The death rate was 10.3, compared with 13.6 for 1947. The comparable figure for England and Wales was 10.8.

The following table gives information regarding deaths over the past five years.

Years	Daventry Borough				Standard Death Rate		
	Total	Male	Female	Recorded Rate	County	England and Wales	
1944	47	25	22	12.2	12.65	11.60	
1945	56	82	28	14.3	12.34	11.40	
1946	51	27	24	13.08	12.00	11.50	
1947	53	33	20	13.6	12.43	12.00	
1948	40	27	13	10.3	*	10.80	

\* Not available.

The main causes of death as classified show no trend away from usual diseases and conditions.

**BIRTHS.** The number of live births for the year was 69, compared with 80 for 1947.

The Birth rate per 1000 of population was 17.9.

The following table gives comparative figures, viz. :—

#### BIRTH RATE, 1944—1948.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Daventry	16.4	16.9	17.47	20.5	17.9
Administrative County	20.07	19.0	19.17	21.15	*
England and Wales	17.6	16.1	21.5	20.5	17.9

**STILLBIRTHS.** The number of stillbirths registered was NIL compared with 2 in 1947, thus not affecting the above Birth rate figure.

**ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.** There was 1 illegitimate birth in 1948.

**MATERNAL MORTALITY.** The district has again maintained its clean record and has had no maternal deaths for three years.

**INFANT MORTALITY.** The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 4 (2 male and 2 female) all legitimate, 1 being attributed to diarrhœa. The death rate per 1,000 live births was 58.0.

#### CAUSES OF INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of children under 1 year of age who died during 1948 was 4 and the causes :—

Cause of Death	Age in weeks			Total
	—1	—2	5—52	
Congenital Malformations .....		2		2
Premature Birth .....	1			1
Diseases of Digestive System .....			1	1

### SECTION B.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service is still available for the work associated with the diagnosis and control of infectious disease. The local general practitioners avail themselves of the service for which the Council contribute £1/1/- per annum.

#### DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN.

In accordance with the provisions of the Diphtheria Anti-Toxin (Outside London) Order, 1919, a supply of anti-toxin is maintained locally and is available at short notice.

#### AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Infectious cases are removed by arrangement with the Northampton Borough Authorities. Tel. Northampton 1402.

For non-Infectious cases and residents the ambulance maintained by the St. John Ambulance Brigade is now operated under contract to the Hospital Authorities under the new Health Act. "Sitting cases" attending out-patients departments can use a private car pool which the Brigade offers. The Ambulance proper, operates from the Daventry Autocar Garage in New Street, and a rota of drivers is on call day and night. Tel. Daventry 16 by day and Daventry 179 or Police by night.

A mileage of 12,389 miles was run on 372 calls during 1948.

"Sitting cases," by car (from the 6th of July only) :—

Total mileage .....	8259
No. of cases .....	231

Since July 5th, when the cases numbered 52 with a mileage of 1,718, 320 cases were handled by Ambulance, travelling 10,671 miles.

These figures do not include the cases carried by the W.V.S. whose mileage is considerably in excess of the above.

The figures given relate to both the Borough and the surrounding Rural District.

Hon. Sec. : Maynard Green, High St., Daventry. Tel. Daventry 86

## **TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.**

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held on the first and third Fridays in each month in the Abbey Buildings and an Ante-Natal Clinic is held at the same times.

The impact of the Health Act with its vast social implications has had widespread results in the field of the diagnosis and treatment of ill-health. Its effect on Social Medicine may be less obvious at the start, but any measure resulting in the fuller application of known remedies must ultimately prove generally beneficial.

## **TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEE.**

The Mayor (Councillor W. J. Franklin, J.P., C.C.) inaugurated at a Public Meeting the formation of a local Tuberculosis Care Committee.

Great interest has been shown in the work of the Committee which combines members from both the Rural and Borough areas. The Joint Secretaries are Mr. W. Coupe and Mr. H. Kirton.

## **SECTION C.**

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.**

Report of W. Coupe, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector.

#### **WATER SUPPLY.**

There were no cases of infectious disease attributable to the town's supply during the past 12 months and in quality and quantity a suitable and sufficient supply was afforded to the inhabitants.

Exploratory measures are being pushed ahead to augment the margin of safety at Monksmoor, one of the town's dual sources of supply. The yield from the projected second bore has not as yet been determined, but it is certain that the potential consumption, due to growth and increased consumption, per capita will be covered by this project.

Meanwhile, as sponsors of the Mid-Northants Water Board having initiated the first steps to long term safeguarding of supplies, the Council and Surveyor are not relaxing their efforts to distribute efficiently the maximum amount of water now available to the fullest



possible number of premises. As, however, reconditioning spreads to the outer areas, there is need for the distribution services to be broadened. Some few houses, within the town, are still dependent on the old Borough Hill intermittent supply which is now redundant. It cannot be too strongly urged that however potable and soft the water may be, its bacteriological quality is doubtful, and the method of storage in miscellaneous basement cisterns and underground tanks, often connected by overflows to the sewer is dangerous. With an ample supply of pure water available there is no reason why the old supply should not be reserved solely for cleansing purposes.

In addition to these premises there are other areas where both domestic and agricultural needs cry out for attention and their needs should be considered not as piecemeal temporary expedients but as the main arteries which can nourish the rural parts of the district affording both farm worker and stock the benefits of ample water. Three such schemes are obviously required and by liason with the Ministry of Agriculture through the County Agricultural Committee it is hoped to enable economic use to be made of such grants as may be available. It is obvious that farmers are seriously hampered by lack of water in the production of clean milk, and several farms and cottages are denied this boon of running water.

The built-up portion of the town has received closer attention in connection with water supply. The fitting of sinks, water supply and flushing apparatus is proceeding, but not as quickly as it could be, were the materials and labour available for this essential work. Your Inspector has a formidable list of cottage property awaiting the opportunity for action. In many cases the houses will stand for a number of years and it must be logical to expect that reasonable facilities for cleanliness and protection of health should be made available to the people who must perforce live in these houses whilst awaiting rehousing.

For the remainder of the houses which have a reasonable " life," it is of vital importance to the well-being of the town that unreasonable delay does not deny the occupants the benefits of an ample water-supply actually within their own houses.

However, although the supply of lead is drying up and galvanised pipe is difficult, the chief bottle-neck is the lack of skilled work-people. Indeed there seems little hope of seeing within measured time a really high standard of water accessibility to the bulk of the town's inhabitants. The goal must remain a higher proportion of older houses connected to the main supply and by education and encouragement, as many bathrooms and hot-water supplies installed as can be obtained. It is a telling commentary to note that the bulk of the town's people must yet be denied the use of bathing facilities, and the Council are to be congratulated on examining the possibility of building a bathing pool and it is hoped, complete with slipper baths.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Samples of sewage effluent discharging from the town's treatment plant have been reported as "Good," showing that despite the age and condition of the works there is no great amount of pollution.

The main concern of the responsible officer and the Consulting Engineer has been to plan a projected series of new sewers, and to propose the increase of those portions of the old system known to be inadequate, to deal with increasing loads. The "dry weather flow" is rapidly passing the safety point, due to increasing numbers of water-using installations and new house building, whilst recurrent failure to cope with storm conditions stresses the need for the implementation of the Engineer's proposals. The system which replaced the original old culverts, which had drained the town for centuries, is now obviously incapable of coping with the town's expansion and to adequately open up the new land so desperately required, and to pick up the existing houses now inadequately drained, the new scheme must be pressed forward.

Several blocks of cottage property and business premises have been redrained, but more attention is required to the drainage of yards and passages where foot traffic is often impeded in inclement weather.

## DISINFECTION.

Cleansing and disinfection followed in all houses where Infectious Disease occurred. Particular attention being paid to terminal disinfection in cases of tuberculosis deaths.

## DISINFESTATION.

Three bed-bug infestations were treated successfully and several other insect complaints received attention. The control of insects by means of the newer sprays and dusts, now available, is a matter which has exercised your Inspector in connection with food premises. It should be possible to wipe out the fly contamination of food, by say, the addition of a reliable insecticide to the decorative media, and the regular use of small quantities of sprays on the surfaces of infested rooms and stores. The hygienic approach to this problem is the only real answer to the problem, as no number of treatments can effectively control insects which are allowed to breed in the vicinity.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The control over the stationing and use of caravans and other temporary homes, under the Public Health Act, is proving sufficient to ensure that licensed sites are maintained in a sanitary state. Yearly licences are in force and no nuisance has been reported.

## RODENT CONTROL.

The practice of promiscuous pig-keeping and the problems associated with this and back-yard poultry-keeping are causing concern. Far too many occupants of such premises are too tolerant of the presence of vermin and other infestations arising out of their pursuits. Whilst sympathising with the ultimate object, the amenities and health of the surrounding houses are of primary importance and several occasions have arisen where your Inspector has had much trouble in alleviating conditions, arising from the slovenly condition of backyard stock-keepers. Again the removal of vermin is rendered difficult and dangerous to domestic animals by the presence of accumulations which invariably accompanies the operation, giving both food and safety to the vermin.

A stronger line is to be taken to safeguard health and convenience. Well-built and drained sties with a complete absence of cover for vermin will be insisted upon. Poultry keepers, too, must anticipate a higher standard. Runs should be clear of debris and houses raised on piers so that rodents are not harboured to the detriment of the neighbours, and incidentally the stock.

The refuse tip is now treated at regular intervals and is reasonably free from infestation. All sewer reaches are check-baited twice a year and no signs of infestation have been observed.

Eighteen other premises were treated for sporadic presence of rats, and good results have been obtained where co-operation from the occupants is given. The presence of rats is a danger signal that hygienic measures and the protection of food-stuffs are not complete. The public are urged to report promptly any signs of rodent infestation.

## SCHOOLS.

The Meals Centre in Foundry Place, has been re-equipped, and functions to serve the needs of the children unable to obtain a proper meal at mid-day, until the new building, being erected, is put into use.

Whilst local pressure has failed to influence the County Authorities in the re-siting of the County Modern Secondary School; proposals made by the officers of the Council affecting the present site are being examined; and should the School remain, fuller use of the site and surrounding area can be envisaged.

The sanitary arrangements in the Primary and Secondary Schools have been improved and should prove reasonably adequate.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

We still await with interest the findings of the Medical team who have completed an industrial survey enquiry into the incidence of tuberculosis in the boot and shoe trade.



As far as compliance with the requirements of the Act, the Local Authority's needs have been met. The main industry sets a reasonable standard of sanitation and where difficulties have been encountered comprehensive measures have been adopted to ensure compliance.

No cases have been referred to the Authority for action by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

The number of Factories registered as such is 46.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

## PART I OF THE ACT.

### 1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 ... ..	1	13	22	2	0	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) ... ..	2	29	44	5	0	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced ...	3	4	8	0	0	3
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..		<b>46</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	

### 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	Referred				
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted.
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	4	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	2	1	0	1	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	2	2	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>



## SCAVENGING.

The collection of refuse, once a fortnight, continue to cause some inconvenience and not a little nuisance, especially to food traders where the handling and storage of bulky containers gives rise to legitimate complaint. Whilst we are aware of the risk caused by the delay in collection, many traders have unsuitable receptacles and must take steps to overhaul their apparatus as soon as possible.

The life of the domestic dustbin is comparatively short, but this does not entirely explain the extraordinary collection of utensils pressed into service for this most essential job. There is difficulty in both providing the bin and still greater difficulty again in apportioning the cost.

As a small authority we have awaited with interest the results of the test cases now before the Courts of Appeal and note with dismay the final case law on the subject.

Throughout the country, numerous authorities have, through a sense of civic duty, decided to by-pass this morass of legal pitfalls and to provide the Community with both the service and bins as a rate-borne charge. There is no doubt that an organisation operating such a service, can both more adequately cope with the work and more fairly apportion the cost, than now obtains under the present system.

## PETROLEUM REGISTRATIONS.

Number of licences to store petroleum: 13. Calc. Carb.: Nil.

No serious accident befell any installation or store registered under the Petroleum Acts, 1928, et seq. Minor modifications were indicated to check risk of spread of fire in two stores, and two other stores were completely rebuilt. One installation was re-wired in accordance with the new flame-proofing requirements of the Home Office.

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING.

It has now become apparent from the results of the Housing Survey that the problem facing us is a serious one, and in no way should the fact be forgotten that a great many inhabitants of the town at present live, and will continue to do so, in unhealthy houses.

Exactly what this entails it would be difficult to depict, and assessed from statistics alone, the position cannot be fully appreciated.

The re-housing of families who are overcrowded would monopolise several years' building, and to aggravate matters numerous applications are made for accommodation from the children of Daventry folk

who have left home and desire to return, and from inhabitants of neighbouring villages who would exchange country life for the communal amenities offered in the town.

Often enough, grave doubts face the Committee in the selection of future tenants and only by judicious care have the more urgent cases been chosen.

The pressure resulting from the return of the ex-Servicemen has been relieved, but not completely, by the allocation of a good proportion of the post-war flats to their needs. Meanwhile various others whose claims cannot have been far below those who were successful, still live on the fringe of desperation, and denied by high costs and slow progress of works, the boon of a home of their own.

It should be noted and not without comment, that the highly desirable end of owner-occupation is not popular within the district. In other parts of the country owner-occupied houses comprise as high as 60% of the total. In Daventry, the number of people who aspire to the position of owning their own house is strangely low and some economic reason or may be merely a technical difficulty, say over the purchase of land in the past, has contributed to this lack of a contented proportion of householders, living in their own homes. There would appear to be opportunities in this connection for the trades concerned, and for any land-owner with potential building land. The effects of the much discussed Land Development Bill are being viewed with some concern by authorities desirous of seeing the growth of owner house-building, which is the ideal of the future.

The aim would appear to be :

- (1) To build new houses quickly.
  - (a) by the public for necessitous cases.
  - (b) by individuals for owner occupation.
- (2) To clear out those dwellings which have long served their useful life.
- (3) To recondition the bulk of the remainder raising them to a reasonable standard of amenity and accommodation and to re-develop the cleared areas in conjunction with this phase of the work.

With the relief from building restrictions the progress of reconditioning can be expected to improve. It is with this basic reconditioning that the best results can be expected. It is accepted that many sub-grade houses must perforce remain occupied for a good number of years and it would be wrong to agree to their continued use as dwellings, without adequate safeguards of health.

These later concern principally such sanitary matters as adequate closets, sinks and ancillary work of drainage, food stores designed to conserve the supplies available, means of cooking food, and washing accommodation, with attention to preserving the fabric of the building itself.

Such houses with a moderate " expectation of life " are the main concern. Some blocks can be patched temporarily, but any large amount spent on their improvement would be wasted. Again a good number of inadequately served houses can be confidently treated, as once they are brought up to standard they will remain fit houses. The questionable cases are the houses which will eventually have to be removed, but which in the meantime will be occupied for 7—12 years, and merely provide shelter for families unable to secure better accommodation.

Decisions regarding these houses are therefore required and these will have to be based on calculations of the rate of new building, a factor very difficult to assess.

These matters must therefore be taken into account when discussing the progress of various reconditioning schemes and are not the least of the problems facing your Inspector in housing improvement work.

The year has been one of some considerable progress with the work of general reconditioning. Various small clearances have been attempted as suitable premises become vacant. Attention has also been paid to the removal of obstructive buildings under circumstances where premises are used dually for trade and dwellings. Such obstructions often deny light and air space to the surrounding occupied properties.

There has been in this connection a high degree of co-operation from the Town and Country Planning Authorities whose opinion on the re-development of all sites is sought, and has been readily forthcoming.

The bulk of the work remains to be done, we have as yet set a course.

A round hundred basically unfit houses remain to be treated and an additional lesser number are not worth serious consideration. The immediate future must see their removal commenced. When eight families squatted in an empty Army Camp, the Council undertook constructional alterations at the site and made habitable the eight occupied huts. These have made reasonable temporary dwellings with running water, cooking facilities and separated bedrooms, etc. The supervisory work was undertaken by the Council's officials on behalf of the Ministry of Health and the Council continue to manage the site as agents of the Ministry.



## RESULTS OF HOUSING SURVEY TO DATE.

Total Number of Houses inspected for Categorisation .....	606
Number of Houses fit for habitation or having minor defects only .....	305
Number of Houses unfit for habitation, and capable of repair at reasonable cost .....	182
Number of Houses unfit for habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable cost .....	119
Number of Houses remedied by Informal Action .....	35
Number of representations made:—	
(a) for service of Works Notice .....	42
(b) for making Demolition or Closing Orders .....	45
Number of Notices served .....	19
Number of Houses rendered fit .....	44
Number of Demolition or Closing Orders .....	5
Number of Houses undertaking accepted .....	2
Number of Houses Demolished .....	4
Number of Houses with Sanitary Accommodation, prej. to H .....	180
Number of Houses without Separate Sanitary Accommodation .....	80
Number of Houses without sufficient drains or sinks .....	147

Total Housing Inspections: 1,523.

The summary reflects the moving picture of Housing improvements which are being effected throughout the town. Bare figures cannot depict the various changes. It has been the policy of the Committee and its officers to encourage and foster the measure of interest shown in property improvement, and not the least of the many duties devolving on the town's officials has been the unravelling of the numerous regulations and ordinances affecting building operations.

Your Inspector has to record his appreciation of the co-operation he has enjoyed from all concerned, enabling him to initiate and see completed such an amount of reconditioning work.

The bulk of the work has been naturally centred on the long delayed sanitary matters. When a block of property has been deemed worthy of prolonged occupation, efforts have been made to persuade the owners to bring not only the dwellings, but business premises up to a reasonable standard of fitness. It is a basis of the Local Authority's statutory duty, that regard shall be had to the standard of housing prevailing, so that the process is progressive and each movement eventually raises the whole standard of reconditioning throughout the area.

It must, however, be reported that instances have occurred where obstructive methods have forced us to resort to legal action. The procedure is cumbersome and essentially slow, enabling certain types of owners to avoid their immediate obligations. It would perhaps be opportune to remind such property owners that legislation changes, and

there cannot long be delayed a complete overhaul of the Acts relevant to Housing matters. It is to be anticipated therefore that the present modest requirements will be "stepped up" nearer to the standard necessary to maintain healthy living conditions. Whether this duty, often onerous in the extreme, should rest solely upon the owner is a moot point, and one which may well be dealt with in coming legislation. There is no doubt that the protective Rent Restriction Act has been stultifying in its effort as far as repairs are concerned.

In assessing the condition of houses, it has been impossible to fix an arbitrary standard. The rule has been to place houses "reasonably" capable of housing a family for a further period (even in poor circumstances) in the category of "capable of repair." Thus a house placed in the "impossible to render fit" group is one which we hope to see demolished quickly, and the families living therein, rehoused. Nothing is more certain, therefore, that when one stage of rehousing is reached, a further group of old dwellings will be ripe for treatment, the whole process being fluid and capable of acceleration should building conditions improve.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food and Drink.

Improvements have been effected in the transport and handling of butchers meat in transit, between stores and retailers.

Various ancillary fitments to vans such as hanging rails are now in use. Attention has been paid to certain stores and the complete re-building of a manufactory premises is in hand.

Milk Supply.

The standard of milk offered for sale within the area is good as far as cleanliness is concerned.

Pasteurised Milk was all satisfactory. Viz. :			
Sampled		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
14	.....	14	..... Nil.
Raw Milk :			
Sampled		Good	Moderate Bad
44	.....	32	..... 5 7

The heat treatment of milk when adequate, as indicated above, gives proper protection against the tubercular bacilli and it is interesting to note that the proportion of protected milk (including T.T.) rises each year.

One cowshed was rebuilt in 1948 and several preliminary enquiries regarding water supply and rebuilding are in hand.

## **FOOD PREMISES.**

### **Bakehouses.**

The standards reached in the better bakehouses must be attained by the users of the poorer premises.

Bread and confectionery being eaten as delivered are peculiarly susceptible media for the transmission of dirt.

The health of consumers is in the hands of the bakers (quite literally).

Several bakehouses have been improved and the redecoration is carefully attended at these times.

### **Shops.**

The general standard of hygiene is not high enough. Far too many shops lack reasonably adequate sanitary and washing facilities. Enough is known about food poisoning to realise that careless handling of food is the starting point in outbreaks. Cleanly premises, clear of refuse, with adequate accommodation for personal cleanliness and careful staff, are absolutely essential.

Several shopkeepers have responded to the comments made, and really adequate safeguards are observed.

Certain food premises will be difficult to maintain in accordance with the requirements of Sec. 13 of the Food and Drugs Acts, and will entail reconstruction works. The fortnightly collection of refuse continues to give rise to difficulties at food shops.

### **Ice Cream.**

The Ice Cream and Heat Treatment Regulations, 1947, controlling the preparation and sale of Ice Cream have been observed in shops selling ice-cream.

### **Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14.**

Number of premises registered under Section 14: 7.

Number of premises registered under Section 57: 1.

### **Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.**

Seven licences were issued to slaughtermen who kill a fair number of cottage pigs in the season. The practice of using the sole remaining slaughterhouse for this occasional trade, causes some nuisance to the occupants of the adjoining cottages. Arrangements are being made to secure closer control of slaughtering for next year.

# DETAILS OF FOOD SURRENDERED.

FOOD	Amount in lbs.
Tinned Beans .....	9
Tinned Whiting .....	9
Tinned Peas .....	25
Tinned Hake .....	2
Tinned Brislings .....	2
Tinned Tomato Juice .....	20
Tinned Tomatoes .....	107
Tinned Evaporated Milk .....	64
Tinned Plums .....	21
Tinned Apple Puree .....	5
Tinned Carrots .....	16
Tinned Fish Balls .....	2
Tinned Fish .....	2
Tinned Pudding .....	14
Tinned Salmon .....	6
Tinned Mutton .....	24
Tinned Marmalade .....	63
Tinned Sausage .....	2
Tinned Pork .....	17
Tinned Bacon .....	19
Tinned Fruit .....	21
Tinned Beetroot .....	3
Boxed Cheeses (foreign) .....	33
Flaked Oats .....	120
Brisket Beef .....	5
Sweets and Caramels .....	34
Bottled Cordial .....	1 bottle
Fish—	
Cod .....	19 stone
Flats .....	2 stone
Finnan Haddock .....	2 stone



## SECTION F.

### Prevalence and Control over Infections, etc.

There were two cases of Scarlet Fever and seventy cases of Measles reported during the year.

### Tuberculosis.

New Cases during 1947 :—

Age periods	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
	M.		F.	M.		F.
0—1	0	.....	0	0	.....	0
1—5	0	.....	0	0	.....	0
5—15	0	.....	0	0	.....	0
15—25	1	.....	1	0	.....	0
Over 25	1	.....	0	0	.....	1

1 case was removed from the register as cured.

3 cases were removed upon deaths.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation in relation to child population.

Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

Age at 31/12/48	Under 1 year 1948	1 year. 1947	2 years, 1946	3 years, 1945	4 years, 1944	5-9 years 1939-43	10-14 years 1934-38	Total under 5	Total 5-15 years	Total under 15
Numbers Immunised	—	50	39	41	38	213	241	168	454	622





